

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 /092 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RCREISJR:JBS

APPROVED BY IO:WBBUFFUM

AF:JFOLEY

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P R 110140Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271240

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO BUFFUM-BOTHA  
DISCUSSION ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 267969

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. ON DECEMBER 9 SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR BOTHA CALLED ON  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM TO CONVEY HIS GOVERNMENT'S  
RESPONSE TO US APPROACH DESCRIBED REFTEL.

2. AMBASSADOR BOTHA, READING FROM TELEGRAM FROM PRETORIA,  
SAID THAT SAG APPRECIATED SPIRIT IN WHICH US PRESENTED  
ITS VIEWS AND HAS GIVEN THEM SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

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SOUTH AFRICA CONSIDERS RECENT OCCURRENCES AT THE UN MOST

DISTURBING AND BELIEVES THESE EVENTS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF NAMIBIA. AT THIS JUNCTURE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS PARTICIPATION WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE DOUBTS WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA THAT MEMBERSHIP IN UN IS WORTHWHILE. SOUTH AFRICA WILL TAKE DEVELOPING SITUATION AND EVENTS IN SECURITY COUNCIL INTO CONSIDERATION IN

MAKING FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO TAKE PART IN DEBATE ON NAMIBIA.

3. BOTHA STATED SOUTH AFRICA APPRECIATES AND SHARES US VIEWS ON NEED FOR ORDERLY CHANGE IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. RECENT INITIATIVES BY LEADERS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND BY BLACK LEADERS OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN SOME SIGNS OF PROGRESS. UNFORTUNATELY THERE SEEMS TO BE NO INTEREST AT UN IN SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS. IN FACT IT SEEMS AS IF SOME AT UN ARE EMBARKED ON COURSE OF FRUSTRATING PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SOUTH AFRICA CONSIDERS US AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS HAVE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AT UN TO ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL INITIATIVE AND TO PREVENT RADICAL ELEMENTS FROM GETTING THEIR WAY. IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF SC WERE TO SET TIMETABLE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION IN NAMIBIA. SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT RESPOND TO COERCION AND BELIEVES ITS INITIATIVES SHOULD BE GIVEN TIME TO BEAR FRUIT. PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO WORK TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTION BY NEGOTIATION. IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS WOULD ONLY LEAD TO HARDENING OF ATTITUDES WITH ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. SOUTH AFRICA HOPES US WILL GIVE IT SUPPORT IN SECURITY COUNCIL AND WILL TRY TO BLOCK RADICAL PROPOSALS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE271240  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 267969  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO BUFFUM-BOTHA DISCUSSION ON NAMIBIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, SF, WA, US, UN  
**To:** CAPE TOWN PRETORIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005